

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

RSR-01 /147 W

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R 271555 JUNE 73

FM US MISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1991

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 1092

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XT

SUBJECT: BERLIN PRESS COMMENTARY ON NIXON- BREZHNEV TALKS

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN PRESS HAS IN VARYING DEGREES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IMPACT THAT RECENTLY- CONCLUDED NIXON- BREZHNEV MEETING AND AGREEMENTS FLOWING FROM IT MAY HAVE ON FUTURE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. WHILE CRITICISM VOICED BY SPRINGER PRESS WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED, REACTIONS OF INDEPENDENT PAPERS SUGGEST DEEP- SEATED UNEASINESS AT US " GOING OVER HEADS" OF EUROPEAN NATIONS IN MATTERS WHERE EUROPEAN INTERESTS ARE SEEN AS INEXTRICABLY INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. SPRINGER NEWSPAPERS HAVE PARTICULARLY SEEN IN BREZHNEV VISIT TO US INDICATIONS THAT SUPERPOWERS WERE INCLINED TO PURSUE OWN INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF OTHER ALLIES. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING " HISTORICAL DIMENSION" OF US- SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, BERLINER MORGENPOST COMMENTED THAT OVER- ALL OUTCOME OF TALKS VINDICATED ADENAUER' S OLD FEAR THAT US MIGHT ONE DAY SETTLE AFFAIRS BILATERALLY WITH SOVIET UNION TO DETRIMENT OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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" STRANGE PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN US AND SOVIET UNION, ARISING WITHIN CONTEXT OF GENERAL WEAKENING OF WESTERN COHESION AND RESISTANCE, WAS CHARACTERIZED AS PRELUDE TO WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN PRESENCE FROM

EUROPE. MORGENPOST SAID THAT CHANGING US ATTITUDE TOWARDS WESTERN EUROPE WAS REFLECTED IN FACT THAT FINAL COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON TROOP REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE DID NOT INCLUDE WORD " BALANCED," AND THAT ARTICLE IV OF AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WOULD APPARENTLY LEAVE WESTERN EUROPE POWERLESS IN FACE OF CONVENTIONAL ATTACK BY WARSAW PACT. POPULAR TABLOID BZ COMMENTED UNDER HEADLINE " IS THE US FOLDING UP THE NUCLEAR UMBRELLA?," THAT US COMMITMENT TO RESORT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM OF ALLIES HAD LOST MUCH OF ITS CREDIBILITY. IMPLICATION DRAWN FROM AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR WAS THAT US WOULD PREFER TO MAKE LAST- MINUTE COMPROMISES WITH MOSCOW AT EXPENSE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERESTS OR FREEDOM. BZ ALSO CRITICISED US FOR RETREATING ON QUESTION OF FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND AGREEING TO PERMIT WARSAW PACT TO RETAIN " MASSIVE SUPERIORITY."

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3. WHILE LESS ALARMIST THAN SPRINGER PRESS, INDEPENDENT TAGESSPIEGEL OPINED THAT NIXON- BREZHNEV MEETING BORE SIGNIFICANT AND WORRISOME IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. RESULT, AND PERHAPS INTENT, OF US- SOVIET AGREEMENTS WAS VIEWED AS RESTORATION OF WORLD LEADERSHIP OF TWO SUPERPOWERS. BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PACT WOULD CONSEQUENTLY LOSE SOME OF ATTRIBUTES OF PARTNERSHIPS IN WHICH SMALL NATIONS COULD ASSURE SELVES OF SAME PROTECTION AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK AS LARGE ONES, AND WOULD INSTEAD DEVELOP INTO " INSTRUMENTS OF CONTROL" THROUGH WHICH SUPERPOWERS COULD ASSET OWN WILL AND PROMOTE OWN INTERESTS. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE DELETERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ATLANTIC

ALLIANCE, SINCE MEMBERS WOULD INSIST ON OWN
INDEPENDENCE AND RESIST EFFORTS AT CONTROL. TAGESSPIEGEL
SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN EUROPE WOULD NEED TO BECOME
MORE SELF- RELIANT, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER IDEA OF
EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE REVIVED AS
MEANS FOR ASSERTING EUROPEAN ROLE WITHIN ALLIANCE AND
FOR COMPELLING US TO REGARD WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERESTS
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AS PERMANENTLY INCLUDED WITHIN US SPHERE OF INTEREST.

4. INDEPENDENT DER ABEND ECHOED CONCERN THAT SUPER-
POWERS WERE CONSOLIDATING WORLD LEADERSHIP AND WERE
CREATING, SPECIFICALLY IN ARTICLE IV OF AGREEMENT ON
PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, " INSTRUMENT OF CONTROL "
TO BE USED AGAINST THIRD POWERS. " SITTING JOINTLY
ON THE SUMMIT, THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE REFEREES OVER
THE LOWLAND." SUCH A MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT
RESOLUTION WOULD IMPLY POLITICAL TUELAGE OVER OTHER
POWERS, AND WOULD PROVOKE RESISTANCE. DER ABEND
CONCLUDED THAT INCREASINGLY INTENSIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW WOULD PROMOTE COHESION AND
COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS, THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH
SUBORDINATION TO SUPERPOWERS COULD BE COUNTERACTED.

5. WITHOUT COMMENTING DIRECTLY ON AGREEMENTS OR
FINAL COMMUNIQUE, PRO- SPD SPANDAUER VOKSBLATT SAID
THAT GROWING ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN USSR AND WESTERN NATIONS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD
TO GREATER INTERNATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND WOULD
THEREBY BRING TO AN END COMMUNIST PRETENTIONS TO WORLD
HEGEMONY. MOREVOVER, INCREASING COOPERATION WOULD HAVE
EFFECT ON DOMESTIC POLITICS IN SOVIET UNION, SINCE
LATTER WOULD BE MORE OPEN TO FRESH IDEAS, AND SINCE
SOVIET LEADERSHIP WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO USE
CAPITALIST BOGEY TO DISCIPLINE OWN POPULATION.
VOLKSBLATT ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT REAL PEACE WOULD
COME NOT THROUGH " PIOUS WISHES " BUT ONLY THROUGH MAIN-
TENANCE OF NUCLEAR STALEMATE OF SUPERPOWERS. KLEIN

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